

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

POLLUTION REPORT

DATE: October 31, 1989

Region II
Response and Prevention Branch
Edison, New Jersey 08837

TO: W. Muszynski, EPA
R. Salkie, EPA
S. Luftig, EPA
B. Sprague, EPA
G. Pavlou, EPA
M. Randol, EPA
D. Karlen, EPA
R. Gherardi, EPA
S. Anderson, EPA
T. Fields, EPA
G. McCann, NJDEP
C. Moyik, EPA
L. Guarneiri, EPA
ERD, Washington,
(E-Mail)
TAT

(201) 548-8730 - Commercial and FTS
24 Hour Emergency

POLREP NO.: 1 (One)
INCIDENT NAME: Synkote Paint
SITE/SPILL NO: E004F
POLLUTANT: Material includes Benzene, Toluene, Xylene,
Epichlorohydrin Diethanolamine, Glacial acetic
acid and Isophorone
CLASSIFICATION: Major
SOURCE: Abandoned Paint Facility
LOCATION: Elmwood Park, Bergen County, New Jersey
AMOUNT: 300 Drums mixed hazardous materials and lab
chemicals.
WATER BODY: Passaic River

1. SITUATION:

A. The Synkote Paint site is located in Elmwood Park, New Jersey in Bergen County. The site consists of a one story, 10,000 square foot building on a half acre lot. The site is located in a mixed residential/light industrial area and bordered by Van Riper Avenue to the north, railroad tracks to the south and west and a business parking lot to the east.

B. Synkote Paints manufactured solvent-based industrial coatings from 1956 until the company filed for bankruptcy in 1985. At that time, the building was abandoned and approximately 300 drums, containers, and reactor vessels were abandoned on the site. The property was foreclosed upon by the National Community Bank of New Jersey in 1986 for unpaid mortgage debts and purchased via a sheriff's sale in 1988 by Property Concepts, Inc., Elmowwd Park, New Jersey. The building is currently unoccupied.

268784



C. A NJDEP inspection on November 10, 1988 revealed approximately 200 55-gallon drums which contained flammables, corrosives and other hazardous wastes stored outside the former manufacturing building. Many of the drums were in poor condition and had released their contents onto the ground.

D. On February 16, 1989, Dr. John J. Trela, Director, Division of Hazardous Waste Management, State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), requested that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) undertake a Removal Action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Reauthorization Act (SARA), to mitigate the threat posed by drums, containers, and vessels of hazardous substances at the site.

2. ACTION TAKEN:

A. EPA and TAT conducted a Removal Site Evaluation and Site investigation of the Synkote Site. Findings reported on April 7, 1989 indicated that a significant quantity of Hazardous Materials existed on-site. The potential threat to public health, welfare and the environment was also substantiated.

B. Approximately 300 drums, containers, and vessels were found located in the building and throughout the site. The drums and containers were haphazardly stored irrespective of their condition or the compatibility of their contents. Many of the drums were deteriorated and have released their contents onto the ground and building floor. The building also contained a small laboratory area containing numerous unsecure containers of acutely toxic, flammable, and corrosive materials.

C. On April 25, 1989 property concepts was notified of potential liability as defined by Section 107(a) of CERCLA.

D. A proposed Administrative Order on Consent (ACO) was presented to property concepts on July 25, 1989. Property concepts failed to reply to the AOC in a satisfactory manner.

E. Due to the lack of timely action by the potential responsible party (Property Concepts) an Action Memorandum was authorized by the Region 2 Acting Regional Administrator on 9/06/89.

F. The Removal Action Proposed included 3 objectives:

- 1) The Abatement of Actual or Potential Threat to Public Health and Welfare
- 2) Mitigation of Actual Potential Treat of Fire, Explosion or a release of Hazardous Materials into the environment.
- 3) Removal and Disposal of Hazardous Substances.

3. FUTURE PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. Removal Activities scheduled to begin in September 1989.

FURTHER
POLREPS
FINAL POLREP _____ FORTHCOMING ☒ SUBMITTED BY _____
Dwayne Harrington, OSC
Response and Prevention
Branch

DATE RELEASED _____